



## The Aruban Antique and Heritage Museum celebrates Himno y Bandera Day

Amongst the dozens of activities and events offered over the weekend of March 18, Aruba's National Anthem and Flag Day was the "window into history" offered by the Aruban Antique and Heritage Museum in Tarabana.

The Museum is the home of Ines Odor, the widow of Juan Maria Odor, who founded Aruba's Numismatic Museum, which is located in Oranjestad. Desiree Croes-Odor, Juan's granddaughter, and curator of the two museums reports that Juan, who had a great love of history, saw the changes and modernization that was coming to Aruba, and so wished to preserve its history and heritage. He turned his home in Tarabana into a museum with a collection of every aspect of not only Aruban, but also world history, with documents, photos and artifacts that go back for five generations of his family and beyond.

The results are fascinating, and one can view replications of a colonial kitchen, with the authentic utensils that were used hundreds of years ago. Everyday objects such as telephones, cooking utensils and sewing machines are displayed in such a way as to bring history to life. Newspapers from around the world that date back to the 1700's can be perused, as can an original wanted poster for the notorious Jesse James. In particular, an article by J.M. Odor about "Quiripa" that appeared in June 17, 1980 issue of "World Coin News" is of great interest as it describes and explains the use of "button money," which was the coinage of the Caribbean in ancient times. There is nothing that was not considered of historical importance and worth preservation, including jars of sand from more than a dozen areas of Aruba, showing the surprisingly vast differences in the geological make up of various parts of the island.

During the Himno y Bandera celebrations the antiquities museum offered local or criollo cuisine from Aunt Ezita, noted for her traditional cooking. Daisy, her mother Raquel, Aunt Irene and her husband Victor, plus Uncle Ruben acted as guides, explaining the various objects and their use in everyday island life.

One highlight of the day was the awarding of plaques to three individuals that have particularly contributed to the preservation and promulgation of Aruban culture and history. These were TeleAruba Producer and cinematographer Demetrio Maduro, who has chronicled the lives and accomplishments of Aruba's elderly for nearly thirty years with his program "Nos Grandinan." (Our Elderly.)

Additionally honored was Mimi Koolman, with her radio station "Bo Guia" (Your Guide,) which plays only Aruban music. Lastly, Roy Feliciano, who contributes his time and artistry to the many beautiful posters issued by the Antiquities and Numismatic Museums and restores all their antiques, received a plaque in recognition of his efforts.

The heart and passion for Aruban history was evident in the way the members of the Odor family greeted visitors to the museum on Himno Y Bandera Day. Also on hand was internationally celebrated artist Gustave Nouel, a native son of Aruba and noted for his portraiture, he demonstrated his skill and provided a lovely souvenir of the day for many. The band Tipico Pegasaya entertained in the afternoon, and the museum provided a festive and enlightening pastime for many Arubans on their Independence Day.

The Aruban Antique and Heritage Museum on Timbalstraat is open to the public on holidays, or tours can be arranged for groups by calling 583-2039, 582-8831, or 965-6969, or via e-mail at: [daisy4croes@gmail.com](mailto:daisy4croes@gmail.com).